buildings of defaulters. While action had been taken by most defaulters to rectify the lacunae, the owner of one building, which was sealed, has obtained orders of the Court for desealing. In order to prevent legal loop-holes from vitiating provisions of the Act, action is being taken for amendment of the Act.

Proposals for Mining Lease in Gujarat

*24. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals pending with the Central Government for grant of mining leases in Gujarat;

(b) when were these proposals received by the Central Government; and

(c) what are the reasons for the pendency of these cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c) Prior approval of the Central Government is required for grant and renewal of prospecting licences and mining leases of minerals listed in Schedule-I of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957. The position of such proposals received from the State Government of Gujarat during last 3 years is given below:

	1991	1992	1993 (upto 12.93)
No. of proposals received.	74	55	51
No. of proposals disposed off.	23	45	30
Pending proposals.	1	10	21

Consultation with other concerned Ministeries and organisations, clarifications from the State Government due to incomplete and inadequate information sent with the proposals and unavoidable administrative delays are some of the reasons for the above pendency.

Abolition of Transfer Committee for Teachers of Kendriya Vidyalayas

*25. SHRI J. S. RAJU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Transfer Committee set-up in May, 1992 to monitor transfer of teachers, Principals etc. of Kendriya Vidyalayas has since been abolished; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Transfers involve administrative decisions which can be appropriately taken by competent authorities in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan in accordance with the Transfer Guidelines approved by the Board of the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan. A Committee for this purpose was not found useful.

Villages affected by Earthquake in Maharashtra

*26. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages of Latur and Osmanabad districts and other areas which were affected by earthquake recently, indicating details of loss of human life, animal life and loss of property in the earthquake;

(b) whether only mud-built houses collapsed on a large scale;

(c) whether Government ever declared those houses unfit for safe habitation; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) Government of Maharashtra has reported the following damage due to the recent earthquake in the State:

1. Number of villages affected	2586
2. Loss of human life	7601
3. Loss of livestock	2100
4. Estimated loss of property (Rs. in crores)	300.00